

IXWORTH AND IXWORTH THORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting of Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council meeting held in Ixworth Village Hall on Wednesday 10th July 2024 at 7:30pm

Present: Councillors (Cllrs) Lord (Chair), Clare Black, Kate Rees, Stephen Mann and Tony Molloy

Also Present: Mandy Adlington (Parish Clerk), County Councillor (C Cllr) Joanna Spicer MBE, District Councillor (D Cllr) John Griffiths MBE and members of the public

Abbreviations

Cllr/Cllrs – Councillor/Councillors, C Cllr – County Councillor, D Cllr – District Councillor, PC – Parish Council, WSC – West Suffolk Council, RFO -Responsible Finance Officer, SCC – Suffolk County Council, PROW – Public Rights of Way, VH – Village Hall. AGM – Annual General Meeting, TRBL – The Royal British Legion

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from the following Cllrs –

Cllr Shelton – Transport – apology accepted
Cllr Sutton – childcare – apology accepted
Cllr Rowe – work commitments – apology accepted

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations were made.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The draft minutes had previously been distributed to all Councillors and taken as read. After a small amendment was agreed it was resolved that the Chair sign the minutes as a true record of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th June 2024.

4. Clerk's Report

The Clerk reported the following;

- **Play Area** – the quote for repairs were agreed last month and the contractor was informed the Council's agreement. As yet no date for commencement has been received so the Clerk was instructed to contact the contractor for a start date.
- **Play Area** – At this date, no response has been received from the Jiggins Trust in relation to the outstanding fees and the new management document.
- **Overhanging Tree in Churchyard** – the planning application to crown lift the overhanging tree has been approved by WSC.
- **St Mary's Spotlights** – now a contact number has been obtained the Clerk will contact the Church Warden to discuss the repairs needed to the Church Spotlights.

It was agreed that Cllrs Mann, Rees and Black would canvas Ixworth Thorpe residents to try to fill the Ixworth Thorpe ward vacancy on the Council.

Action: Cllrs Mann, Black & Rees

5. Public Forum

No comments were received from the members of the public present.

6. Reports from County & District Councillors

C Cllr Spicer reported the following;

- **Bridge Farm Bridge** – C Cllr Spicer reported that it looked like all systems were in place for the bridge repairs to start on 22nd July 2024. All diversion signs etc were ready to be erected and a lot of advertising showing the closure had happened.
- **Hempyard Bridge** – Hempyard Bridge repairs had finally been started.
- **A1088** – the A1088 from Ixworth to Ixworth Thorpe is closed overnight this week for road repairs.
- **Stow Road Closure** – C Cllr Spicer reported that she was in contact with SCC on the closure of Stow Road for vital electrical work required. It was disappointing that this closure coincides with the closure of the A1088 closure of Bridge Farm Bridge. C Cllr Spicer reported she had arranged a meeting with an Officer from SCC to discuss the closure.
- **Rushford Bridge** – the small bridge in Rushford is also going to be repaired and would be closed at some point soon.
- **Mulley's Footpath** – the footpath running alongside Mulley's garage is being cut back soon and the path cleared. A resident has cut back some of the area.
- **Baileypool Lane** – the lane is also very overgrown, SCC will cut the centre of the road, but the verges are also overgrown with nettles and weeds.

Cllr Rees wished to highlight her concerns that when Stow Road is closed, drivers are likely to travel up Bury Road and, even though it is not allowed, turn right to go to Bury St Edmunds.

Cllr Rees enquired who was responsible for road name signs. C Cllr Spicer stated these were the responsibility of WSC. D Cllr Griffiths stated that yes they were WSC's responsibility and if she could email him the sign she was concerned about he would look into this issue.

Action: Cllr Rees

Cllr Lord stated that there had been positive feedback for the recently installed signs on Mulley's roundabout. However, would it be possible for C Cllr Spicer to report when the chevrons and brickwork be repaired after the recent accident of a vehicle once again hitting the roundabout. C Cllr Spicer agreed to follow this up

D Cllr Griffiths reported the following;

- **Suffolk Archives Ipswich** – D Cllr Griffiths agreed that the trip, especially on public transport, was exceedingly difficult for residents to visit the Archives once they move from Bury St Edmunds.
- **General Enquiries** – if I can be of any assistance with any issue involving my ward please do not hesitate to contact me and I will try my best to help.
- **Road Name signs** – as agreed please let me know which sign you are concerned about, and I will pass to the relevant department.
- **Crown Lane Development** – at present I have no further information on the development of the new Crown Lane Masterplan.

7. Finance

The following accounts were reported for payment;

BACS	Staffing	£1828.45
BACS	WSC	£342.00
BACS	Clarks of Walsham	£33.98
BACS	Cloudy IT	£134.58
BACS	Village Hall	£19.25
BACS	Jose Acosta	£733.74
BACS	Wave	£44.72
BACS	Arco	£68.99
BACS	Community Heartbeat Trust	£102.00
BACS	Mr N Laughton	£192.69
Chq No 1481	St Mary's Litter Pick	£25.00
Direct Debit NEST		£54.88

The RFO was authorised to transfer £1,000 from the Business account to the Community account.

Action: RFO

8. Waste Management

The Clerk reported that the waste bin at the junction of New Road and Crown Lane needs relining. The bin is not large enough for the usage. WSC are able to install a replacement similar to the bin in Commister Lane for a Cost of £285 + VAT, including installation.

It was resolved to replace the bin.

Action: Clerk

9. Village Hall

Cllr Lord asked Cllr Mann (Chair of the Jiggins Trust) if any further action is being taken about the overgrown vegetation around the village hall. Cllr Mann informed members that there had been some issues with the contractor employed to undertake the cutting back and this issue was still in hand with the Jiggins Trust. Cllr Lord enquired if the lock on the gate leading into the playing field was still a lock with a key. Cllr Lord felt this was unsatisfactory as the key at the VH and the shop were not accessible 24/7 if emergency services, such as an air ambulance, needed to access the field. Cllr Mann stated he would take the concerns to the next VH Trustees meeting.

Cllr Black enquired if members of the public could attend the Trustees meetings. Cllr Mann stated that members of the public could not attend Trustees meetings but could attend the AGM of the Jiggins Trust.

10. Suffolk Archives Relocation

The Ixworth History Recorder provided a report after their investigation into more local storage solutions, pending the move of records to Ipswich. After a discussion, members resolved not to withdraw any PC records currently deposited with Suffolk Archives as a suitable local location to store the records had not been found. It was agreed to look at this issue again if the situation altered.

11. Public Rights of Way

Cllr Lord stated he was still preparing a report to deliver to Cllrs at the September meeting.

12. Crown Lane Masterplan

Cllr Lord reported that after the PC meeting with Persimmon on 21st May 2024 the PC had requested some feedback information. A response had been received from Persimmon which was very disappointing and did not answer the issues raised at the meeting and also suggested that a planning application may come forward by the end of Autumn.

It was agreed to request another meeting with them to discuss the Masterplan again prior to any planning application. It was agreed to pass the email to C Cllr Spicer and D Cllr Griffiths so they could consult with their respective planning officers.

Action: Cllr Lord

13. Jaynic

The Clerk and Cllr Lord reported that Jaynic had requested a meeting with Cllrs to discuss any future planning application at Shepherds Grove industrial estate. It was agreed to request dates and the Clerk would consult with Cllrs a date and time suitable for the majority of Cllrs.

Action: Clerk

14. Parish Council Surgeries

It was agreed that The Terms of Reference for Parish Surgeries, previously distributed to all Cllrs, were adopted by Ixworth & Ixworth Thorpe Parish Council.

It was agreed that Cllr Molloy investigate presentation boards for the Parish Surgeries.

Action: Cllr Molloy

It was agreed to add to the September agenda to discuss dates and locations.

Action: Clerk

15. Parish Council Action Plan

Cllr Lord distributed the Parish Council Action Plan as agreed at a workshop meeting. It was agreed to adopt this plan and review quarterly. It was agreed to add to the October agenda to review and assign areas of the plan to individual Cllrs.

Action: Clerk

16. Ixworth Cemetery & St Mary's Churchyard

The following were discussed and agreed;

- **Crown Lane Cemetery** – Unfortunately, the taps in the Cemetery are turned off at present as the taps and pipes are damaged and split and were leaking a lot of water.
- **St Mary's Churchyard** – The agreement for what section of the Churchyard that the PC would look after had been slightly confusing and reported incorrectly. It was agreed to look after the front of the Church and the right-hand side behind the Church. The Wildlife Group would then look after the left-hand side where they have a rewilding project.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact a plumber as soon as possible to get the taps repaired. It was agreed that the entire system needed to be examined so that the issue of split pipes and taps would not occur again. The Clerk was authorised to accept a quote for this work to be completed. **Action: Clerk**

As it had now been established that the PC were going to take the responsibility of the right-hand rear of the Church yard as well as the front of the Church, the grass contractor had been approached to quote for the additional work.

It was agreed to accept a quote for a one-off clearance at a cost of £380. It was also agreed to increase the annual cost of the contract by £1200 to include tending to the right-hand rear of the Churchyard.

The Clerk was instructed to inform the grass contractor and Rev Burton.

Action: Clerk

17. Correspondence

The following correspondence had been received;

- **Hazells Estate Agent** – overgrown vegetation from St Mary's
- **Resident** – VH Commercial Bins
- **Jaynic** – Request for PC Meeting (on agenda)
- **Resident** – VH Recycling Area
- **History Recorder** – Archives (on agenda)
- **Mike Jones** – Youth Junction – Grant Report
- **Robins Copse Volunteers** – Brush Cutter repair request
- **Resident** – Overgrown Tree
- **FOIL** – AGM 30.07.24
- **WSC** – Grass Cutting Schedule 17th June – 12th July
- **SCC** – A1088 Overnight Road Closure

It was agreed to inform Hazells Estate Agents that the Churchyard would be cut back.

It was agreed to request if the emails concerning the commercial waste bins and the recycling area could be passed to the VH.

It was agreed to advise the resident concerned about the overgrown tree to contact the Tree Officer at WSC for advise as they had previously advised and assisted on another tree on the piece of land in question.

Action: Clerk

Cllr Lord as TRBL Ixworth Branch Secretary confirmed they would be arranging a commemoration for the 80 years of the end of WWII. Details would be advised as the event is arranged.

18. Chairman's Report

The Chair gave no report.

19. Councillors Reports

Cllr Black wished to highlight parents' concerns on the lack of goal posts for children playing football on the playing field. Cllr Mann suggested that parents write to the Jiggins Trust with their concerns and request for goal posts.

Cllr Mann enquired who to approach to have a tourist sign installed directing residents and visitors to St Mary's Church. It was agreed to try to find this information. **Action: Clerk**

Cllrs Lord and Black wished to highlight the numbers of dogs allowed off their leads in and around the play equipment and the children using it. It was agreed that not all dog owners are irresponsible, but others let the dogs run up to children who could be afraid of dogs, urinate up against the equipment children are using and let their dogs foul in the area and do not then pick it up.
It was agreed to look again at fencing the play area equipment in.

20. Date of the Next Meeting

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 11th September 2024 at 7.30pm in Ixworth Village Hall. No meeting will be held in August unless planning applications are received.

21. Exclusion of the Press & Public

It was resolved to that under the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public be excluded from the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be discussed

The press and public were excluded at 9.15pm

With no further business the meeting concluded at 9.35pm.

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Signed

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Date